



## Stream Health Workgroup Meeting Minutes

April 16, 2021, 11:00am-12:00pm

### *Participants:*

Emily Bialowas (Isaac Walton Leauge)	Caroline Donovan (UMCES)	Matthew Cashman (USGS)	Anne Hairston-Strang (MD DNR)
Denise Clearwater (MDE)	Sandra Davis (US FWS)	Sara Weglein (MD DNR)	Ari Engelberg (MD DNR)
Rosemary Fanelli (USGS)	Frank Borsuk (EPA)	Nora Jackson (CRC)	Tuana Phillips (EPA)
Liz Feinberg (NFWF)	Alana Hartman (WV DEP)	Rich Walker (USGS)	Rikke Jepsen (ICPRB)
Neely Law (Fairfax County)	Nancy Roth (Tetrattech)	Greg Noe (USGS)	Kelly Maloney (USGS)
Chris Spaur (US ACoE)	Bill Stack (Center for Watershed Protection)	Scott Stranko (MD DNR)	

### **Introductions and Announcements – Sara Weglein (MD DNR)**

- Neely and Sara participated in a kickoff meeting with CWP for the second phase of the workplan for the project regarding reducing stressors of stream health. They will be building off of the USGS literature review.
  - CWP is reaching out to members of the technical advisory group to confirm their participation
- Sara: Also participated in a call with Rebecca Hanmer regarding the Rising Watershed and Bay Water Temperatures STAC workshop
  - Rebecca asked if there is any overlap with the SHWG. Determined that there is not a lot of overlap with the SHWG work, but there is a good amount of overlap that some of the members work on.
  - Frank B. discussed the information that is requested from the Stream Health WG (specific questions sent out by Steve)
  - Sara: if anyone wants to get involved, reach out to Frank and Steve Faulkner, and cc Rebecca Hanmer
  - **Follow-up action: Sara will distribute the document that Frank shared with the questions listed.**

### **Maryland Water Monitoring Council Stream Restoration Monitoring Committee – Bill Stack and Lisa Fraley McNeal (CWP)**

- Bill: As co-chair of Maryland Water Monitoring Council Stream Restoration Monitoring Committee with Lisa, we recently had a meeting and wanted to share the main points.

- Had several attendees from universities, non-profit groups, etc. Everyone listed their top issues in terms of critical research (related to monitoring):
  - How much monitoring is necessary for determining how many cross-sections are needed for monitoring geomorphic changes, or bank pins, etc. How much monitoring is needed to assess ecological lift associated with stream restoration?
  - Need for more of a systems approach to monitoring that expands beyond stream corridors to wetlands and riparian systems. Greg mentioned a STAC workshop review of this issue that was recently approved.
  - Conducting research on hydromodification and climate change
  - What role does the watershed play in stream impairments?
  - TMDL focuses mainly on sediment, which is an obvious impairment – doesn't focus on hydromodification except in MS4 permits. Regulations are weak on tying everything together.
  - Need for training for revised stream restoration protocols
- Next steps: We will decide what to do with this information at our next meeting, which will be scheduled in the next few weeks. Potential to have a special session at next MWMC conference. Or we can seek funding for STAC workshop in the next round.
- Neely: Are you interested in having new people join the council? Do you have to be in MD to participate?
  - Bill: MWMC has attracted people from outside of the state, so all are welcome. The focus is still in MD, but the issues we work on transcend state boundaries.
  - Contact information: [bps@cwpc.org](mailto:bps@cwpc.org) or [lfm@cwpc.org](mailto:lfm@cwpc.org) re the Stream Restoration Monitoring Subcommittee

**How to incorporate DEI (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice) in to our workplan** – Tuana Phillips (EPA) and Briana Yancy (CRC)

Presentation can be viewed [here](#)

Questions/comments:

- Tuana: What are some ways you can incorporate DEI into your work? What resources or support do you need from the Diversity Workgroup?
- Neely: Are there any key indicators that the DEI group has?
  - Tuana: One great resource is the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Justice and Equity Dashboard that John Wolf has been working on. It is still being worked on, but the goal is to provide access to a variety of data layers such as demographic data of underrepresented populations, environmental justice and public health issues, quality of life concerns, etc., as well as Chesapeake Bay environmental data that you can overlay.

- Link to dashboard: <https://gis.chesapeakebay.net/diversity/dashboard/>
- Ari E: Shared the Maryland Environmental Justice Screening Tool (MD EJSCREEN), similar to EPA's EJScreen: <https://www.ceeihlab.org/mapping-tools>
- Nancy R: We are currently working on MD Healthy Watershed Assessment – been talking with John Wolf about adding some of those DEIJ metrics
- Tuana: NY and PA also have developed their own environmental justice metrics and map layers

### **Overview of the SRS (Strategy Review System) process – Neely Law (Fairfax County)**

- Bay-wide process where workgroups create 2-year workplans to help develop accountability for our work.
- We completed the last SRS cycle in 2019
- We have our first check-in with the Bay Program coming up to discuss our progress from the last workplan
  - Over the next few months, we need to revisit what areas we haven't had progress in and re-evaluate and re-adjust if necessary.
  - Presentation to the Management Board in August
  - We will discuss this in more depth at our June meeting to prepare our materials for this meeting
- We have 5 action items with specific tasks underneath them
  - Green indicates that the work is completed or nearly complete, yellow indicates that it has encountered a minor barrier, and red indicates that no progress has been made
  - Neely reviewed each of the actions – to see their status, please refer to the draft workplan [here](#)

### **Upcoming events and news (All)**

- Alana H: Building on what Bill Stack mentioned at the beginning - some research has been showing that biological life in the streams isn't rebounding the way we want it to when we do stream restoration. Should we raise this as a more urgent topic on our agendas?
  - Neely: Talking about the workplan and where we want to focus our efforts will be a good opportunity to discuss this and see where this fits in our work
  - **Follow-up action: Neely will send out a link to the presentation that Alana mentioned.** Let's make sure that we bring this up at future meetings and as we review our workplan.
- Scott S: A lot of the projects in streams are built to reduce nutrients and sediments to Chesapeake Bay. As projects are built, maybe the actual stream health can be incorporated into those designs as well.

- Neely: We're hoping to address this under the umbrella of stream health stressors
- Denise: I just want to make sure that the group is aware of the STAC workshop from the Wetlands Workgroup – this project is looking at the crediting of wetlands and streams and evaluating how we can bring in the ecological condition of the resource into the crediting process.
  - Follow-up action: Megan will share the proposal with Neely, who can share it with the workgroup members.
- Next meeting: Friday June 11th

**Adjourn**